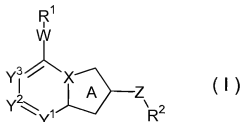
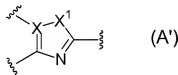


# AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

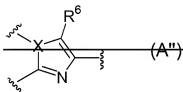
1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein, ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and X<sup>1</sup> is an oxygen, a sulfur or -NR<sup>5</sup> (wherein R<sup>5</sup> is a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl), or formula (A''):



wherein X is a nitrogen and R<sup>6</sup> is a hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl;  
 R<sup>1</sup> is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino, provided that the amino nitrogen of said cyclic amino has no carbonyl adjacent to the nitrogen;  
 R<sup>2</sup> is an optionally substituted phenylalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkenyl, an optionally substituted aryl or an optionally substituted pyridylheterocyclic;  
 Y<sup>1</sup>, Y<sup>2</sup> and Y<sup>3</sup> are each an optionally substituted methyne optionally substituted by a halogen or a nitrogen, provided that one or less of Y<sup>1</sup>, Y<sup>2</sup> and Y<sup>3</sup> is nitrogen;  
 W is a bond, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>- or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-CO- (wherein n is an integer of 1 to 4 and m is an integer of 0 to 4); and Z is -NH- a bond, -CO-, an oxygen, a sulfur, -SO-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, -NR<sup>4</sup>-, -NR<sup>4</sup>-alk-, -CONR<sup>4</sup>- or -NR<sup>4</sup>-CO- (wherein alk is an optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene and R<sup>4</sup> is a hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl);

provided that (i) the compound wherein ring A is the 5-membered ring of the formula A<sup>1</sup> (wherein X is a carbon and X<sup>+</sup> is a sulfur), W is a bond, Z is  $\text{-NHCO-}$  or  $\text{-CONH-}$ , and Y<sup>+</sup> is CR<sup>2a</sup> (wherein R<sup>2a</sup> is a hydrogen, a halogen, or an alkoxy) and (ii) the compound wherein ring A is the 5-membered ring of the formula A<sup>1</sup> (wherein X is a carbon and X<sup>+</sup> is an oxygen, a sulfur, or  $\text{-NH-}$ ), R<sup>+</sup> is an optionally substituted 1 piperazinyl, W is a bond, Z is a bond and R<sup>2</sup> is an optionally substituted aryl, are excluded; or a salt thereof.

2. (Cancelled)

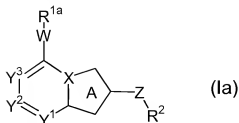
3. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an amino substituted by two optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylalkyls groups.

4. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an amino substituted by an optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl and an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted heterocyclopyridyl.

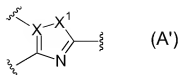
5. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a 5- or 6-membered cyclic amino which may be substituted with one or more substituents.

6-12. (Cancelled)

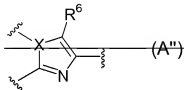
13. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound represented by the formula (1a):



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A<sup>1</sup>):



wherein X is a carbon and X<sup>1</sup> is an oxygen, a sulfur or -NR<sup>5</sup> (wherein R<sup>5</sup> is C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, a hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl), or formula (A''):



wherein X is a nitrogen and R<sup>6</sup> is a hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl; R<sup>1a</sup> is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl hydrocarbyl group and an optionally substituted pyridylheterocyclic group, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

R<sup>2</sup> is an optionally substituted phenylalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkenyl, an optionally substituted aryl or an optionally substituted pyridylheterocyclic;

Y<sup>1</sup>, Y<sup>2</sup> and Y<sup>3</sup> are each a an optionally substituted methyne optionally substituted by a halogen or a nitrogen, provided that one or less of Y<sup>1</sup>, Y<sup>2</sup> and Y<sup>3</sup> is nitrogen;

W is a bond, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub> or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-CO, wherein n is an integer of 1 to 4 and m is an integer of 0 to 4; and

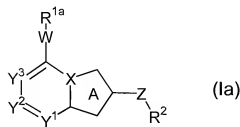
Z is a -NH bond, -CO-, an oxygen, a sulfur, -SO-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, -NR<sup>4</sup>-, -NR<sup>4</sup>-alk-, -CONR<sup>4</sup>- or -NR<sup>4</sup>-CO- (wherein alk is an optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene and R<sup>4</sup> is a hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl);

provided that the compound wherein ring A is the 5-membered ring of the formula A' (wherein X is a carbon and X<sup>1</sup> is a sulfur), W is a bond, Z is -NHCO- or -CONH-, and Y<sup>1</sup> is CR<sup>2a</sup> (wherein R<sup>2a</sup> is a halogen, or an alkoxy) is excluded;

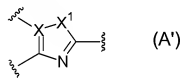
or a salt thereof.

14. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13 wherein the disease being treated or prevented is selected from affective disorder, depression and anxiety.

15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Use of A method for manufacturing a medicament for treating a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated, comprising combining a compound represented by the compound formula (Ia);



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A');:



wherein X is a carbon and X<sup>1</sup> is -NR<sup>5</sup>- (wherein R<sup>5</sup> is a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl);

R<sup>1a</sup> is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

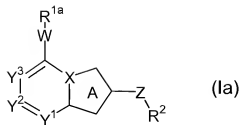
R<sup>2</sup> is an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted pyridyl;

Y<sup>1</sup>, Y<sup>2</sup> and Y<sup>3</sup> are each a methyne optionally substituted by a halogen;

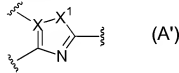
W is a bond; and

Z is -NH-; according to claim 13; or a salt thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for manufacturing a medicament for preventing or treating a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated.

16. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Use of A method for manufacturing a medicament for treating affective disorder, depression or anxiety, comprising combining a compound represented by the compound formula (Ia);



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and X<sup>1</sup> is -NR<sup>5</sup>- (wherein R<sup>5</sup> is a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl);

R<sup>1a</sup> is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

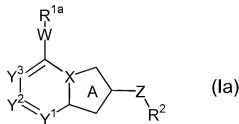
R<sup>2</sup> is an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted pyridyl;

Y<sup>1</sup>, Y<sup>2</sup> and Y<sup>3</sup> are each a methyne optionally substituted by a halogen;

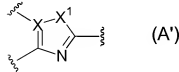
W is a bond; and

Z is -NH-; according to claim 13, or a salt thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for manufacturing a medicament for preventing or treating affective disorder, depression or anxiety.

17. (Currently Amended) An agent for ~~preventing or~~ treating a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated, which comprises the compound represented by the formula (Ia):



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and X<sup>1</sup> is -NR<sup>5</sup>- (wherein R<sup>5</sup> is a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl);

$R^{1a}$  is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

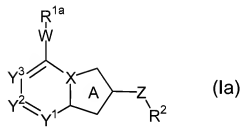
$R^2$  is an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted pyridyl;

$Y^1$ ,  $Y^2$  and  $Y^3$  are each a methyne optionally substituted by a halogen;

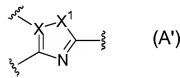
W is a bond; and

Z is -NH-; (1a) according to claim 13 or a salt thereof.

18. An agent for preventing or treating affective disorder, depression or anxiety which comprises the compound represented by the formula (1a):



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and  $X^1$  is -NR<sup>5</sup>- (wherein  $R^5$  is a  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl);

$R^{1a}$  is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

$R^2$  is an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted pyridyl;

$Y^1$ ,  $Y^2$  and  $Y^3$  are each a methyne optionally substituted by a halogen;

W is a bond; and

Z is -NH-; (1a) according to claim 13 or a salt thereof.